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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE RURAL AREA

OF

SALISBURY AND WILTON

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER,

1940.

SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

Medical Officer of Health :—G. NAPIER, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.(R.C.P.& S.), C.T.M.& H.
"Glenorchy," Shaftesbury Rd., WILTON.
Phone—Wilton 112 & 108.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :—J. THOMPSON.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—R. F. SAUNDERS.
A. T. BOORE,
(Recalled to the Colours, Oct., 1939), Cpl., R.A.M.C., Sanitary Section.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector : H. SHARRAT,
A C.I., R.A.F., Rhodesia.

Offices : 35, CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY.

PHONE : SALISBURY 3371.

Abridged Report

for the Year ended December, 1940, on Public Health Matters in the Combined Rural District of Salisbury and Wilton.

Composition of the Area.

Salisbury and Wilton Rural District is built up of thirty-two parishes, which appoint thirty-four councillors to the District Council, which meets monthly in the Guild Hall in Salisbury, presided over by a chairman and vice-chairman.

The area in acres is 110,163.

The population is 16,480.

There are 5,042 inhabited houses, of which 3221 are working class houses.

Rateable value of the district—£72,605.

Penny rate yields approximately £319 1s. 4d.

Vital Statistics to December, 1940.

Births.

The birth-rate was 13.8, which compares with 13·8 last year, and with the figure of 14·6 given by the Registrar General for England and Wales. The following are the figures for this year :—

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—	Legitimate	221	123	98	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13·8
	Illegitimate	6	4	2	
Stillbirths—	Legitimate	6	3	3	Rate per 1.000 live & stillbirths 29.
	Illegitimate	1	1	0	

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population
Deaths ...	...237	129	108	14.3

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	... 1	4
Other Puerperal Causes	... 0	0
Total ...	... 0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Number of deaths	... 9
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	... 37
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...31
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years) ...	... 1

The general death rate has gone up as compared with last year (14·3 against 12·0), and it coincides exactly with the All England death-rate, which is given as 14·3).

Particulars of Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—

	Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease	28%	33%
Cancer	15%	13%
Tuberculosis	3%	1·2%

Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer for the neighbouring Rural Districts of Mere and Tisbury, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews ; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery ; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England; Certificate of Tropical Hygiene, London ; etc

There is a fully qualified Senior Sanitary Inspector. He is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector), the Meat Inspector's Certificate, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

The part-time Sanitary Inspector resigned to take up a whole-time appointment with Wilton Borough last November, and a whole-time Assistant has been appointed in his place.

The other assistant is still with the Colours, being a corporal in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C.

The pupil assistant volunteered for service with the R.A.F. in June, 1940, being called to the Colours in December, 1940, and a full-time short-hand typist has been appointed to carry out the office work in his place. This is proving very efficient, and supplies a long felt want.

Water Supplies.

During the past year West Dean and Stratford-sub-Castle water supplies have been completed. The West Dean one has been carried out by Investments & Land Owners Ltd., Norman Court Estate, Tytherly. Stratford-sub-Castle is a bulk supply from the City of Salisbury.

The parishes of Pitton, Farley, Whiteparish, Stratford-sub-Castle, Quidhampton and Fovant have now public pipe supplies, and West Dean is also a pipe supply from the estate above-named.

The Alderbury scheme is unfortunately held up owing to the out-break of hostilities. This, and the parishes of South Newton, Wishford, Burcombe and Barford must have consideration when normal activities are resumed.

Analyst's Reports on Water Supplies.

Number of wells sampled...	29
Number of Good samples	20
Number of Bad samples	9
Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial works	7
Number still receiving remediable work ...	*2

*One of these supplies has ceased to be used for drinking purposes.

Collection of House Refuse.

The collection of house refuse for the past year has not been easy. Unfortunately we have not been able to get even a temporary release of the contractor from his Army duties.

However, a salvage scheme was commenced at the beginning of April, and for the period ended December 31st, the following materials have been salvaged:—

Paper	70 tons.
Scrap Iron	6 tons.
Bottles	237 dozen.
Jars	247 dozen
Bones	1½ tons.

This has been in addition to the ordinary refuse collection which has been fully maintained with the only two men available. It is difficult to see how an increase of salvage could be effected with the present staff, and there does not appear to be any hope of a return of the contractor himself until after the war.

Meat and Other Food Inspection.

The wholesale slaughterhouses at Stratford-sub-Castle have been taken over by the Government, and as requested by Memo. 1940 No. 41 of the 15th January, 1940, every assistance possible is being given by the one Inspector available, which is the Chief Sanitary Inspector himself, and in addition the Downton Bacon Factory also receives his attention. As reported last year, this additional work, often involving Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, has been cheerfully accepted by him as part of his war services, and the District has every reason to be grateful at being served by officials of this description.

Meat Killed.

Carcases	Number Killed.	Average per week.
Pigs	38,760	745
Beasts	2,605	50
Calves	10,080	194
Sheep	23,981	461
	75,426	1,450

Meat Condemned.

	Amount lbs.	Tuber-culosis	Fever & Dropsy	Bruising & Injury	Mori-bund	Jaundice &Fevered
Pork ...	110,574	70%	15%	15%		
Beef ...	122,237	75%	10%	15%		
Mutton...	7,822		90%	8%	2%	
Veal ...	9,216	70%		15%	10%	5%

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 16 T.T. Herds and 83 Accredited Herds in the District. Since the outbreak of the war the taking of quarterly samples under the Milk (Special Designations)

Orders has been done, on behalf of the County Council, by this Council's Sanitary Staff (another additional duty).

On the books—Cow-keepers	... ...	368
Cow-keepers and purveyors	...	61
Purveyors only	... ...	3
Total	...	432

Housing (General).

18 new bungalows and 3 new houses have been erected by private enterprise. Of these, two bungalows and one house were completions of grants obtained under the S.D.A.A. in 1939.

Three cottages have been erected under the Agricultural Workers' Act.

Three houses have been reconstructed.

Three licences were granted for cottages at Clarendon Park, Pitton and Whiteparish for occupation by blitzed families. All these cottages were subject to undertakings under the Housing Act.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last nine years.

Disease	Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	31	22	0
Diphtheria	18	16	0
Erysipelas	9	1	0
Puerperal Fever	1	1	0
Acute Pneumonia	9	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	5	1
Measles	419	0	0
Whooping Cough	13	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Period		New Cases			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
0	...			2	
1	.			2	
5	...			1	
10	...			1	
15	...				
20	...		1		
25	...	1			
35	...	1	1		
45	...		1	1	
55	..				
65 & upwards					
Totals	...	2	3	7	0

There were two female deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.